NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1876.

WASHINGTON.

A CANAL ACROSS THE ISTHMUS.

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION PAVOR THE NICA-RAGUA ROUTE-ESTIMATED COST OF \$100,000, 000-A CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN POW-ERS-FAVORABLE REPLIES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.-The President some months ago appointed a commission to examine the several reports of surveys which have been made at the expense of the United States to ascertain the practicability of an interoceanic canal across the Isthmus. This commission having completed its work has made the following report to the Presi-

To the President of the United States : The Commission for the United States appointed by you to consider the subject of communication by canal between the Atlantic and Pacific occaus, across, over, or near the isthmus connecting North and South America, have the honor, in advance of their more elaborate and final report conining the data for their conclusions, after a careful and minute study of the several surveys of the various routes across the continent, unanimously to report:
First: That the route known as the Nicaraguan route

beginning on the Atlantic side at or near Greytown, running by canal to the San Juan River, following it by slack water navigation to Lake Nicaragus, across the lake to the Rio del Medio, and thence by canal to the Rio del Brite in the Pacific coast, possesses, both for the construction and maintenance of a canal, great advantages, and offers fewer difficulties from engineering, commer cial and economical points of view than any one of the other routes shown to be practicable by survey sufficiently in detail to enable a judgment to be formed of their relative merits.

Second: The summit level of this route, Lake Nicaragua is designed to be kept at a permanent hight of 108 feet above the level of the sea. This hight is to be overcome in the Atlantic slope with four dams in the San Juan Riyer and ten lift locks, and in the Pacific slope with ten http:// and to have a series of this distance, the Atlantic slope division from Greytown to San Carlos, at lantic slope division from Greytown to San Carlos, at Lake Nicaragua, comprises 108510 miles, of which 63 miles are by slack water navigation, and 45510 miles by canal. The summit level division comprises 56510 miles by Lake Nicaragua, from San Carlos, at the head of the San Juan, to the Rie del Medio. The Pacific slope division comprises 1633100 miles by canal from the mouth of the Rio del Medio to the mouth of the Rio del Brito. The evsions of the looks proposed are 400x70 feet, with 26 feet depth of water. Artificial harbors must be constructed at Brito and near Greytown; and, although that at Greytown presents unusual features requiring careful study and skillful treatment, there is no question

Third: That the cost of construction of this canal and harbors, with all the necessary adjuncts, will be at least \$100,000,000, and that the cost by any other route will greatly exceed the cost by this route.

Fourth: That all preliminary arrangements having been made, the time required for actual construction

should not exceed 10 years.

Nith: That an interoceanic canal across the Continent should be under the protection of all the nations in-terested, and that they should guarantee not only the neutrality of the caual and its works, but also of a contiguous strip of territory on each side of not less than 50 miles in breadth and of the ocean approaches for a dis-tance of not less than 100 nautical miles in any direction along the coast and out seaward from each end.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants. A. A. HUMPHREYS, Brigadier-General, Chief of

Engineers, * C. P. FATERSON, Superintendent Coast Survey. DARIEL AMMEN, Chief Bureau of Navigation,

Navy Department.

The President believes that the prospect of an early beginning of work on this canal is very favorable. Under his direction communications have been sent to the principal powers of Europe in regard to the subject, directing attention to the satisfactory results of the surveys which have been made, and to the views set forth in the above report as to the best route. Replies have been received from several of the Governments thus addressed, in which they express themselves fa-vorable to an early beginning of the work, and seem to approve the wisdom of making it international in its character by an equal participation of the great commercial Powers in its construction, and the maintenance for it of an inviolate neutrality. When replies have been received from the other nations communicated with, the respondence to Congress with a special message, in which he will urge that the United States take steps necessary to the beginning of this great enterprise.

MR. RANDALL REPLIES TO MR. ORTON. NO POWER TO EXCUSE HIM-THE EXECUTIVE COM-MITTEE OF THE WESTERN UNION MAY BE SUM-

MONED TO THE BAR OF THE HOUSE. Washington, Dec. 26.-Speaker Randall has replied to the letter addressed to him by Mr. Orton, who asks to be excused, for the reasons stated, from compliance with the requirement to appear before the Morrison Investigating Committee and produce certain papers and telegrams. The Speaker to-day, in the course of conversation, while he did not give the contents of his letter in reply to Mr. Orton, said that he had no power to excuse that gentleman. It was for the House to determine what action should be taken, as under the resolution recently adopted, the House had power to require any person to appear before any committee and bring with him books,

As the Executive Committee of the Western Union Telegraph Company have removed all messages now on hand from the control or possession of any of its officers, and as Mr. Orton is one of such officers, it is not improbable, judging from what was said at the Capitol to-day, that the Executive Committee may be cited to appear before the bar of the House to answer for contempt, and be dealt with as the law and facts may require. It is thought the Executive Committee are thus amenable under the resolution of the House, which provides for such course of action in case any person shall prevent or attempt to prevent any witness from producing any book or paper which witness may have been required

GOV. HAYES AND THE SOUTH.

WHAT HE MIGHT DO AS PRESIDENT-THE TIMES RIPE FOR A NEW AND BETTER POLICY-OPPOSI-TION THAT WOULD FOLLOW IT-FINAL SUCCESS.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Washington, Dec. 26.—It is certainly creditable to Gov. Hayes that the men who know him best, without having received any assurances except those contained in his letter of acceptance, almost without exception expect the adoption of a new and wiser policy toward the South to follow closely upon his inauguration. It is wholly unnecessary to say that no negotiations have been opened between Gov. Hayes or any one authorized to speak or act for him and a single influential Southern man looking to an alliance of any sort. Negotiations of this kind would be highly improper in a political sense for members of either party to engage in at the present stage of the Presidential controversy, and no propoattion which Gov. Hayes could now make would for a moment be entertained even by the most conservative of his political opponents. It would only be nterpreted, and would impair his influence with his own party, while subjecting him to severe crit-

ician by the Democrats. I say that no Southern Democrat would now listen to any proposal from Gov. Hayes or his friends in egard to the future Southern policy of the Repuban party in the event of its success. Because the Southern representatives in Congress have been moderate in council and have set themselves like me wall against extreme or revolutionary action by their party, they are none the less Democrats They will insist most strenuously that the result of throw obstacles in the way of a reform of this kind, and none the less desire the success of Gov. Tilden.

the election shall be ascertained by legal and constitutional means, and that the result, whatever it is, shall be peaceably acquiesced in; but they will not, in advance of the decision, even by indirection, do anything to weaken their party. How they would receive an invitation from Gov. Hayes, should be be the next President, to assist him in raising the South from the political degradation into which it has fallen, I do not know. I believe a liberal and statesmanlike policy would meet with an immediate and hearty response; but this is a matter which it is now too early to discuss, and I leave it for the

I suppose there is no candid person, well informed in Southern politics, and not having a personal or pecuniary interest in the perpetuation of the present condition of affairs in most of the States south of the Potomac, who will not admit the necessity of a complete regeneration and reorganization of the Republican party there if it is ever again to make its influence felt in the politics of the nation. I say nothing now of the means by which the white people have obtained complete control of all but three of the Southern States, and have placed themselves in a position to dispute the result of the late election in those three even; those means have sometimes been fair and legal, sometimes unfair and illegal; but the fact that the Republican party, even when it has had a majority of the voters in a State enrolled in its ranks, has been unable to cope with the oppo-sition, and that, in spite of Federal support, it has been losing ground year by year, is a stubborn one which no reasoning can dispose of. Four years ago, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, and West Virginia were strong Republican States; to-day they are as strongly Democratic. This year, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida may be saved, but, if so, it will only be "as by fire," and unless there is a turn in the tide they too will be carried over to the Democratic side in two years from now, and the South will in fact be solid. Nor can this be prevented even under a Republican national administration, without a change of policy. Public opinion in the North has again and again rebelled against the measures which Gen Grant and his cabinet have reorted to in order to save their party in the Southern States; and in spite of all that has been done, case after another of them has been captured by the op-

Is there then no hope for the Republican party in the South f Are the politics of the country drifting more and more into sectionalism, and is the "Solid not only to become a fact but a permanent one? It is difficult to see any other outcome of the present political situation except by a thorough reorganization of the Republican party in the South. It is natural that the present generation of colored voters should stand firm in their support of the party which gave them their freedom and conferred upon them all the civil and political rights they now enjoy, but it is not natural that the white people should be equally united under the Democratic banner. There are the same differences of opinion on most political questions among the intelligent white voters of the South that exists in the North. They are not all agreed on the currency question, on the tariff, on internal improvements, nor even on the question of State rights-one single tie binds them together, and that is the necessity which they believe exists of adopting measures of self-defense against the perpetuation of the corrupt carpet-bag State governments which have robbed and plundered

The Hon. Randall L. Gibson in conversation the other day defined his political position in these "I am in favor of hard money, a protective tariff, internal improvements, and local self-government, and I am opposed to secession. If that creed makes me a National Democrat, then I am one. I act with the Democratic party because I believe if it triumphs it will lift the burdens that have been placed upon my State and other Southern States by the aid of the Republican party." Gen. Gibson is the representative of a very large class of the best white people in the Southern States-people who are in perfect sympathy with the best men in the Republican party of the North, and have been kept from joining its ranks only by the Southern policy of the Admir stration.

Look at the State of Louisiana, for example-and I refer to it because, having visited it so recently, am more familiar with the present condition of politics there than with that of any other State. The Democratic-Conservative party there is split asunder with internal dissension, and would actually be divided to-day did not the white people believe that the only way to overthrow the Kellogg and Packard regime is to act in harmony. In every recent State convention there has been an almost life-and-death struggle between the old Bourbon "Last Ditchers" and the Conservatives. One wing is in favor of a "White Line" policy, and clings to all the old Democratic doctrines that were in vogue before the war, with very little modification. They do not desire to have slavery restored, but the little else they have learned from the events of the last 15 years has had almost no effect upon them, except to make them grow more sour and bitter every year. They were Democrats before the war-secessionists,

fire-eaters. The Conservatives, as they call themselves, are progressive. They have accepted the situation in the best of faith ; they detest the "Last Ditchers," and even object to being called Democrats. Gen. Gibson is one of their leading men, and his political creed which I have already quoted is theirs. The older men among them were Whigs and Know-Nothings before the war, and went into that struggle against the dictates of their judgment. This same class of men may be found in all of the Southern States. I met many men in Alabama in 1874 who told me that they had not voted since the war, simply because they would not train under Democratic banners nor give aid to the dishonest Republicans who had control of their State Government. In Texas the Democratic party is so unwieldy that it is already showing signs of division, and in other States there are thousands of white men who follow Democratic leaders only under protest.

Here then, I believe, is the material from which a new party may be formed which would affiliate with a liberal party in the North, either the Republican guided by a new and wiser administration, or another drawing its membership from the best elements in both existing parties. As there are now no signs of the breaking up of either of the old political parties or of the organization of a new one in the North, it follows that if this work is done at all it must be by a Republican Administration.

Will it be possible for any man or set of men in the Republican party to make use of the conservative element in the South in organizing the Republican party there on a new and better basis? It will certainly be no easy task, and whoever undertakes it must expect to meet with the bitterest opposition both in his own party and in that of his opponents. His first duty would be to convince the conservative white people that dishonest and disreputable men, those who have no interests in common with the people among whom they live, and no occupation but office-holding, are no longer to be recognized and upheld by the Administration at Washington. This first step would arouse the enmity of a large class of Republican politicians holding State and Federal offices in the South, and who, with those in the North who sympathize with them, would begin a most relentless warfareagainst suchja reform. It might even cause a division in the Republican party at the outset, but the man who undertook this policy would have the support of the best men in his party, and I believe they would be a majority of it. The strong partisans among the Democrats, the "Last Ditchers" in Louisiana and the Bourbons in the North, would also

for if it should succeed their hopes of future politics victory would be destroyed.

These first steps, it seems to me, would be the most difficult to take, and at the very outset the danger of failure would be greatest. But suppose that success has up to this point crowned the efforts of a Republican President who has undertaken to reorganize his party in the South on the basis described; suppose that his party in the North has stood by him and supported him; that he has found men who are honest and respected by the people to hold the Federal offices in the South, and that he has convinced the Conservatives of that section of his sincerity of purpose,-would they aid him, or would they take advantage of the demoralized condition of the Republican party in their States to solidify the opposition and establish it on a firmer basis than ever? Of course it is impossible to say what would happen under such circumstances, but I believe that the old dislike of the Democratic party and name would show itself as it never has done before since the war, and that there would be a party formed in each of the Southern States which, though it might not call itself Republican, would give its support to a National Republican President who pursued a policy similar to that which I have marked out,

I have thus far said nothing of the colored people, and what must be done with them during this reorganization. Of course, they would have to be guaranteed in the enjoyment of all the civil and political rights that have been conferred upon them by the Constitution and the laws of the United States. Any desertion of them would be fatal. But I doubt if forcible interference in their behalf would be necessary at any time, and I am sure that the moment a considerable number of the white people of any Southern State ceases to act with the remainder politically, no Federal interference of any kind will be necessary to protect the negro in the free exercise of the right of suffrage. The negro vote will divide the moment the white people cease to act as a political unit, and when that occurs the managers of neither party will allow their colored allies to be bulldozed.

I believe, therefore, that a reorganization of parties in the South will be possible under a wise and liberal Republican administration, although it will not be a work easy to accomplish. The man who undertakes it must make up his mind to meet and conquer opposition in his own party and in that of his political opponents. He will be denounced as a raitor by some who helped to elect him, and looked upon with suspicion by others; but if he succeeds he will have performed a service for his country which will place him in the front rank of its greatest bene-

THE PATENT OFFICE PAY ROLL. NO MONEY PAID FOR WORK NOT PERFORMED-THE COMMISSION WILL NOT RESIGN.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The Commissioner of Patents states, with reference to the report that very great irregularities have been discovered in his office, by which persons have drawn pay from the Government without performing any work, that such a condition of things does not and has not existed. The work referred to is the tracing of drawings for models, for which an unusual sum has been appropriated by Congress. The greater portion of this work has been given to women or men in reduced circumstances, the compensation for which has been comparatively Less than a dozen female employés who have had this work to do have thought proper to sign fletitious names on the pay rolls, some because they were averse to being known as Government employés, and one or two, it appears, because they had relatives in the office, and inder the ruling of the Secretary two or more of a family have not been allowed to hold office in the Interior Department.

Mr. Duell, the Commissioner, says the Government has not paid a single dollar in return for work not performed. Where the tracing work has been taken home, one instance is noted where a lady who was not able to per form it herself relet it to another person. All this has form it herself relet it to another person, now been remedied by an order from the Commissioner that none of this tracing or any other work shall be given to any one who does not personally perform the service. There is no indication that Commissioner Duell will resign. He says he has no such intention, and, on the contrary, the relations between himself and the Secretary continue in all respects to be in perfect accord.

MEETING OF THE SENATE.

ONLY FIFTEEN MEMBERS PRESENT-NEW MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES AND ELEC-TIONS.

Washington, Dec. 26 .- The Senate met at reading of the journal, Mr. Morton, Chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, said it was important to have another member added to that committee. The great body of the committee, he said, had gone South to make the investigation ordered, and there was South to make the investigation ordered, and there was not a quorum of the sub-committee assigned to duty in Washington new in the city. He therefore moved that another member be added to that consultate. The motion was agreed to. The chair appointed Mr. Michell of Oregon as the new member. The journal of Friday's proceedings was then read. Mr. Ferry of Michigan, from the Committee on Rules, presented revised rules, showing the changes proposed by the committee, etc. The Senate then went into Executive session at 12:15 p. m., and when the doors were reopened adjourned till Friday next.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1876. The President sent to the Senate to-day a message in closing the report and journal of proceedings of the comon appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Indian appropriation bill of last year to treat with the Sioux Indians for a relinquishment of their right to the Black Hills, &c. He calls the special attention of the Senate to the articles of agreement between the commis-Senate to the articles of agreement between the commission and the Indians, as, among other advantages to be gained by them, is the clear right of citizens to go into a country of which they have taken possession, and from which they cannot be excluded. The documents were ordered to be printed and lie on the table. The report of the commission has already been published. He also sent to the Senate the report of the commission appointed hast year to superintend the work of paving Penavivania-ave., in this city, and it was ordered that it be printed and referred to the District Committee.

The Penallent to day, and to the Senate the commission of the commission of the committee.

The President to-day ent to the Senate the correspondnce between the United States and Great Britain on the subject of extradition. Some of it has heretofore been published, and the conclusion shows that the treaty bas published, and the conclusion snows that the treaty has been restored to vitality by the act of Great Britain in receding from its former position and consequent surren-der of Brent, the Louisville forger, to the United States, Our Government is now prepared to consider the ques-tion of an amendment of the treaty, so as to increase the class of offenses for which extradition may be claimed. The correspondence is regarded by the Senate at present as emfidential, and hence there is no access to it for pub-lication.

Gen. Crook says that the Indians at Red Cloud Agency have not allowed the Government to float its own flag over the storehouse where it issues to them their food and clothing.

NOMINATIONS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.-The President sent be following nominations to the Senate to-day: the following nominations to the Senate to-day:

Nelson Trusier to be United States Attorney for Indiana;
James M. Currie, Collector of Customs at St. Marks, Fla.:
Charles S. Thompson of Pennsylvania to be Second Lieutenant
17th Infantry; and also the following postnasters: Charles
II. Stacy at West Newton, Masa.; James H. Jones at Ashland,
Mass.; Edwin A. Rartlett at Cuba, N. Y.; Owen C. Allen at
Warren, Penn.; John T. Johnston at Warren, Ill.; John D.
Hunter at Webster City, Iowa.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

GLOUCESTER, Mass., Dec. 26.—Matthew Sander-sen, residing in Rockport, was struck by a freight train last night and fatally injured. night and fatally injured.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—The Globe Theater in this city will be closed after Saturday, in order to make improvements lemanded by the Inspector of Bulldings.

POTTSVILLE, Penn., Dec. 26.—Mrs. Kinney was burned to death at St. Clair, Penn., this morning by the explosion of a coal-oil lamp. Her husband was also severely

NAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—Max Erlinger, the Bal-imore forger, was released on habeas corpus to-day, and was umediately rearrested as a fugitive from justice under the BALTIMORE, Dec. 26.-The tug Thomas H. Day of

the Albany Dredging Company was burned on Sunday after-noon, off Hackett's Point, while towing a schooner. They were struck by an ice floe, the tug careened, took fire, and was yurned, but the crew were saved.

burned, but the crew were saved.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 26.—The body of the German woman, aged 40 years, which was found frozen in Boston in this county on Thursday last, has been identified as that of Mrs. J. Miller of Eden, who, with her husband, was lost in the woods of the previous Saturday.

Albany, Dec. 26.—President Dickson of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company has ordered a consolidation of the Albany machine shop with the shop at Oneonta, which will make necessary the discharge of three-quarters of the men employed in that branch of the company's industry.

THE TURKISH CRISIS.

ENGLAND CALLS ON TURKEY TO SUBMIT. THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES RESOLVED TO LEAVE SHOULD THE SULTAN REJECT THEIR DEMANDS-THE PORTE DETERMINED TO REPUSE THEM-THE ARMISTICE TO BE PROLONGED.

A Reuter dispatch from Constantinople says: The Marquis of Salisbury will demand to-day from the Sultan his acceptance of the proposals agreed upon by the Powers. Should the Sultan refuse, Lord Salisbury is instructed to leave Constantinople and order the British fleet to quit Turkish waters."

CONSTANTINOPLE, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1876. It is understood that all the plenipotentiaries will eave here should the Sultan reject the proposals submitted to him to-day. The respective embassies would then be intrusted with the direction of affairs. Reports current that the Turkish Council of Ministers eided yesterday to reject the proposals, and that in the event of war the Porte will arm its Armenian, Greek, Bulgarian, and Christian subjects.

CURRENT REPORTS AT THE TURKISH CAPITAL. The plenipotentiaries are said to exclude from the term Bulgaria" all localities where the Mussulmans are in a najority. The Porte is still firmly resolved not to make ny concession which is contrary to the maintenance of the integrity of the Empire, nor to grant broad admistrative authority to the Provinces, nor the disarmament of the Mussulmans. Le Phare du Bosphore (newspaper) today publishes an article on the crisis, concluding as follows: "Non-Glavonic people will never consent to being sacrificed to Pas-Slavism, but will fight, and, if victorious, will have the satisfaction of having saved not only national existence but British interests."

Edshelm Pasha has been appointed President of the Council of State.

If the European Plenipotentiaries should withdraw from Constantinople the embassies of their respective Governments will be intrusted to charges d'affaires. St. Peterseurg, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1876.

The Grand Duke Nicholas, commander of the Sou Army, has been ill since the 19th inst. VIENNA, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1876.

The Political Correspondence says: "The latest news received in St. Petersburg indicates that the Porte will give an evasive reply to the proposals. This would not make the situation hopeless, as the conditions submitted are not considered unsusceptible of modification. A prolongation of the armistice until Jan. 15 is proposed.

THE SULTAN TO DECIDE BY THURSDAY. A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company, dated Cont stantinople, Dec. 26, 7:15 p. m., says: "The Porte doe not appear to have decided formally to reject the proposals of the European Powers. Midhat Pasha has visited the Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries. During the conversation which took place he is said to have foreshadowed that Turkey would raise objections, especially in relation to the guarantees and the foreign gendarmeric. But it is stated that he did not speak of an absolute re-

The Marquis of Salisbury to-day informed the Sultan that the Powers were unautmous in insisting on the adoption of their proposition, and in the event of a refusal the Embassadors would quit Constantinople.

The Porte will not make known its intentions until the next sitting of the conference, on Whonesday. It is be-lieued the armistice will be prolonged, and a prompt soution of the pending question is expected. BELGIUM AND OCCUPATION.

BRUSSELS, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1876.

The Independence Belge says: "The Belgian Govern ment up to the present time has only received purely onfidential overtures concerning the occupation It is said that Minister Maof Bulgaria. has notified Belgian representatives abroad ion has notified Beigian representation that Belgium, without absolutely rejecting the request which may essentially be made to her, would be obliged which may essentially be made to an obtaining certain to make her acceptance conditional on obtaining certoir financial and moral guarantees. The Independence doubts whether there is any chance of the Powers ac-cepting Belgium's conditions.

RUSSIAN MILITARY PLANS.

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1876. The Vienna dispath to The Times says: "Some believe the question of prolonging the armistice will be made dependent upon Turkey giving a decisive declaration on the subject of reforms and guarantees. This seems to tally with news from Kischeneff that preparations are making to advance the Russian headquarters to Chotis, on the frontier. The signal for this move one at the Russian headquarters doubted that the army would cross the Fruth at Skuljeni, in the direction of Jassy, when the headquarters would be transferred to Ungheni. It is calculated that this movement would take place about the 10th of January. This date is important, as it coincides with the expiration of the fortnight's prolongation of the armistice advocated by Eussia. was expected from Constantinople.

THE BRITISH FLEET TO LEAVE BESIKA BAY. The Daily Telegraph's special dispatch from Pera states hat the British Admiral at Besika Bay has re ders to move his fleet to the Pireus, which is a better Winter auchorage. The change has no political signifi-

THE SULTAN WARNED TO SUBMIT. The Times leader referring to this report says the news oncerning the withdrawal of the fleet appears at all events premature, but it credits the dispatch, which is ater in date, concerning Lord Salisbury's representatater in uate, concerning Lord Salisbury's representa-tions to the Sulfan, and concludes that the Porte may rest assured that the first shot fired in defiance of the united demands of Europe would be the beginning of the ond. Neither England nor any other Power would interpose to save it from ruin. It might have more foes than Russia, even at the outset.

JOHN BRIGHT ON TURKEY.

A STRONG APPEAL TO THE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE-ENGLAND'S FEARS ANALYZED-UNSCRUPULOUS STATESMANSHIP DENOUNCED-LORD BEACONS-FIELD'S SPEECH CONDEMNED - THE MASSES

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] LONDON, Dec. 7 .- Mr. Bright has made-at Birmingham on Monday-a very strong and noble speech on the Eastern question. If you look at it as a speech made with a view to its immediate influence on the governing classes of this country, it is probably also an injudicious speech. It takes far higher ground than politicians, or statesmen, or men who call themselves above all things patriots, are in the habit of taking. Some denounce it as unpatriotic. It is a plea for justice as between nation and nation, and a plea of that sort is naturally distasteful to people who, consciously or unconsciously, are for their country, right or wrong. The great strength-I might almost say the only strength-of the Government lies in the disposition of the English people to support their own Government in a contest of any kind with any other Government; supporting it simply because it is their own, and because the other is not their own. That custom has assumed the force of a tradition, fortified by numerous precedents. Mr. Bright, though one of the most English of Englishmen in many points, lifts himself to a higher level than this; with the result that on this question he talks over the heads of a part of the community, and de taches himself from the sympathies of another part, from whom he is by no means remote intellectually. Of this he is certainly quite aware, for he understands his countrymen extremely well, and it may be assumed he has not done it without an object. I should suppose he cared more for touching the consciences of the mass of the people than for conciliating the prejudices of the upper classes. I suppose he believes two things; that there is such a thing as a popular conscience, and that an appeal to it, though derided by critics, is likely in the long run to be successful. He wants to prevent a war, and it is not easy in these days for an aristocratic Government to make war in defiance of public opinion. Hence this speech, which seems so perfectly calculated to reach the deeper feelings and better judgment of the great mass of the people of England. From that point of view it ceases to be an injudicious speech, and must be pronounced as far-seeing and statesmanlike as it It is, as I said, in the first place, a plea for justice

s between nation and nation. It is an appeal to England to do justice to Russia; to be willing that Russia should exercise rights which England, in her place, would be certain to claim and enforce. Here s a great Power, says Mr. Bright, with fivers running into the Black Sea, ports on that sea, a commercial marine, and a navy. Her only outlet into the Mediterranean is through the Bosphorus and the a store. This refutes the charge of incendiarism.

Dardanelles. It is a natural outlet, and Turkey closes it, and England supports her in closing it, and in maintaining possession of Constantinople whereby she is enabled to close it. Why? Solely because England has possessions in India, and her road to India is through the Mediterranean, and the safety of that road might be impaired by the unchecked access of a kussian fleet to the Mediterranean Sea. LONDON, Tues'ay, Dec. 26, 1876.

But there is already a French fleet there, and an Italian fleet, and an Austrian fleet, and a Spanish fleet, and a Turkish fleet. If the Russian fleet came in there would be one fleet more, no doubt. But suppose there were. What would happen ! Would the British flag be lowered or dishonored? Would the British right of way be impaired ? England has the biggest fleet in the world-bigger, perhaps, than all the fleets of all the other

Powers combined. Will her maritime supremacy be imperiled by the opening of the Dardanelles 7 If it will not, England has no interest in the Eastern question; no excuse for maintaining the Turk in Constantinople, and for blockading the Russian within the Black Sea. The sole basis for the policy of the Government is a basis of fear; not, I should say, a basis likely to be heartily approved by the English people. From that motive of English fea Russia is to be unjustly debarred from the use of the Straits which nature and the situation of her territory make it right and necessar she should have. From that motive alone England lends a hand to sustain the foul tyranny of the Turk over Christian

One of Mr. Bright's critics calls this an appeal to religious animosity, quoting in proof this fine

passage:
Why, 700 years ago the people of this country, with, as history tells us, one of their horoic kings, joined the Crusades and went to Palestine for the purpose of liberating the holy places from the possession of the indict and the Mohanmedan. Well, now what do we do? We give the blood and the treasure of England to the support of this Turkish Government. We give Belliehem and Caivary and the Mount of Olives, through the blood and treasure of England, and the power over all these vast countries, which are almost a wilderness and desert under the Turkish seepter—we do all this for the simple purpose of preventing Russia passing by any ships of war from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean.

Well, if the feeling which inspires these words be religious animosity, it is a feeling which Mr. Bright shares with scores of millions of people who speak his own language and some other languages. In fact, it is far less a question of religion than a question of morals, and nothing in Mr. Bright's speech was more loudly cheered or will be more heartily approved than his declaration that he has no wish to be partner in any statesmanship which is dissociated from morals. And as to the patriotism of Mr. Bright's view, his own words are a sufficient indication of what he thinks patriotic:

tion of what he thinks patriotic:

If I could show, and I believe I am entitled to try to show—if I can show that there is nothing in this question which affects the interest of England, as your Government and some of your press would persuade you, I say I could do no more patriotic act in the face of my countrymen than to save them from these constantly recurring panics and from the perils which they bring with them. (Cheers, I if I can dispel this terror; if I can so strengthen your views that you will no longer tremble at this hobgobin [laughter], then I shall have done my little part toward settling what is called this perilous Eastern question.

The question there raised is for Englishmen, not for us, but I don't think the accusation that Mr. Bright is wanting in love of his own country has made much headway. Heretofore the force of his speeches against any particular war has been weak-

ened by his supposed hostility to all war. It is, perhaps, partly to meet this objection that Mr. Bright now tells us that though he never stands forward as the defender of such sanguinary struggles as the one imminent between Russia and Turkey, he knows not how in some cases they are to be avoided. Even arbitration is not of universal efficacy. There can be no arbitration, exclaims Mr. Bright, between such a Government as that which reigns at Constantinople and that suffering people of whom we have lately heard so much. And he avows that he has ometimes thought during the past year that Her Majesty's Government were rather too much in favor of peace; if not at any price, at least at a price which some of us would scarcely wish to pay for it. They are willing to sacrifice the interests, the happiness, and the freedom of millions of the Christian population of the Turkish Provinces, and I am afraid they would make another great sacrificenamely, they would sacrifice the fair fame and the honor of this country in binding us in perpetual partnership with the worst and the foulest Government known upon earth." Mr. Bright, however, makes, as most persons make, a discrimination between the head of the Administration and its special Embassador to Constantinople. There are perhaps no two men in England more unlike than Lord Salisbury and Mr. Bright; which gives an additional interest to the portrait of the one drawn by the other terest to the portrait of the one drawn by the other:

Lord Salasbury is a man against whom a good deal may be said [laughter], and a good deal might honeatly be said in its favor. [Hear.] Perhaps that is true of most of us. [Laughter.] But with regard to his policy at home, I think I have observed in it for many years—and I have watched him and sat opposite to him for many years in the House of Commons—what I should call a hearty unwisdom [laughter] that was unfortunate and mischlevous. On the other hand I have seen, in his conduct as Minister for India, a great liberality and a great disposition to do that which he believes to be just. [Hear.] I can only hope that he leaves his unwisdom for home consumption [loud laughter], and that when he arrives in Constantinople his liberality, his justice, and his strong intellect will have fair play. [Hear, hear.] I hope he will do his country the highest service and himself the highest honor by the duty which he has undertaken.

-a hope based on the expectation that Lord Salisbury will rest on his own strong sense, and not act 'as the subservient representative of his chief." Lord Salisbury has discovered on his journey, and will bear in mind, thinks Mr. Bright, that England is wholly without an ally save Turkey alone. The supposed interest of England in the matter is an interest with which no other European Power has any sympathy, and which none will support. Therefore, says Mr. Bright: "I look upon it that boasting at the Guildhall how many campaigns we can bear before we are exhausted, before the workingmen of England are in the condition that they were during the great wars in past times-I look upon all that sort of boasting as out of place. The Prime Minister may be a great actor, but, somehow or other, he seems to me as if he always played rather to the galleries." Indeed, if I should describe the feeling that performance of Lord Beaconstield's at the Guildhall has excited by so strong a word as disgust, I don't know that it would be too strong. Mr. Courtney, one of the very ablest and most thoughtful of the younger English Liberals-a candidate for Mr. Horsman's vacant seat at Liskeard-used still harsher language last night in a speech to the people of that borough. A more nefarious deed, said Mr. Courtney, was never done by any statesman than by Lord Beaconsfield when he made kis Guildhall speech-to call it an act of infamy was not too strong. If this be said by a candidate for Parliament, what may not be said in Parliament itself? If things go on as they have gone thus far, and if Lord Salisbury should disappoint the expectation formed of him, it is quite probable that the debates of next session may take a tone as high as that of

Mr. Bright himself. As I close this letter there comes a brief report of a speech by Mr. Joseph Arch on Tuesday night to the Leigh Liberal Club. Mr. Arch said he ventured to tell Lord Beaconsfield that if he went to war he he must not count on taking the agricultural laborers to be shot at for thirteen pence a day. They were determined that until they had obtained the franchise they would take no part in the wars of England. There could hardly be a more striking proof of the view suggested at the beginning of this letter: that Mr. Bright's speech was meant to reach the masses of Eugland, and has reached them. Mr. Arch's testimony on that point goes perhaps further than that of any other one man.

CAUSE OF THE LITTLE ROCK FIRE.

LITTLE ROCK. Ark., Dec. 26.-It has been ascertained that the last conflagration in this city was PRICE FOUR CENTS.

POLITICAL NEWS.

A RECOUNT IN FLORIDA TO-DAY. GOV. STEARNS ADVISES THE CANVASSING BOARD TO

OBEY THE COURT'S ORDER. TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 26.-Gov. Steams says the decision of the Supreme Court decides the election question in this State, and that he has advised the Canvassing Board to obey the order of the court Secretary of State McLin has given notice to the other members of the board to meet in his office at 11 o'clock to-morrow to canvass according to the court's mandate.

The Senate Committee have concluded their labors here, and left for Jacksonville this morning.

THE RECEIPT GIVEN FOR FLORIDA'S VOTE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 .- The electoral vote of Fiorida as cast by the Republican electors of that State was deposited by a messenger with Senator Ferry, Vice-President pro tem., yesterday. No receipt for the vote was given the messenger, as there are now two sets of electoral returns from Florida, each party's electors having voted.

DEMOCRATIC NEWS ABOUT FLORIDA The National Democratic Committee yester-

day received the following dispatch from Florida:

It is reliably ascertained that W. E. Chandler has telegraphed Gov. Stearns and Gon. Wallace to disregard
gandamus of the Supreme Court of Florida, saying in
substance that, having started, no step backward must
be taken. Gen. Wallace is also notified that Judge Wood
of the United States Circuit Court is on his way to Tallshassee.

GOV. GROVER COMING EAST. A SERENADE AT SAN FRANCISCO - GOV. IRWIN

SPEAKS AND INTRODUCES MR. GROVER.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26 .- Gov. Grover of Oregon left this morning for Washington. Last evening he was serenaded at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Gov. Irwin, who introduced him, said Gov. Grover's action would have the effect to compel Congress to go behind the face of the returns, in which case it was believed the Senate would refuse to give Hayes an electoral majority. Gov. Grover spoke very briefly, justifying the constitutionality of his action. Resolutions were adopted approving Gov. Grover's course. About 2,000 or 3,000 rsons were present, including a number of promi

Democratic politicians. A delegation escorted him to the ferry-boat and a salute

SOUTH GAROLINA. THE SUPREME COURT REFUSES THE QUO WAR-RANTO MOTION.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 26 .- The petition to the Supreme Court to remove the quo warranto proceedings by the Tilden electors against the Hayes electors in South Carolina, which had been argued by United States District-Attorney Corbin for the motion and by Mr. Barker and Mr. Youmans against, was decided to-day. Justice Willard delivered the opinion of the court, refusing the motion to remove the case to the United States Circuit Court under the act of 1875.

TWELVE HUNDRED VOTERS IMPORTED. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 .- Representative A. S. Vallace of South Carolina asserts that great election frauds were perpetrated by the Democrats of his district for the purpose of defeating him. He says that he will be able to prove, not only the intimidation of Republica

GEN. ANDERSON'S MISSION TO WASHINGTON, New-Orleans, La., Dec. 26.-Gen. Anderson was the messenger appointed to deliver the Hayes elec-toral vote of Louisiana to the President of the Senate. Republicans think this is the business that takes him to Washington.

ATTACHMENT ISSUED IN THE TELEGRAPH CASE. Washington, Dec. 26 .- An attachment has been issued to compel Mr. Barnes, the manager of the Western Union Telegraph office at New-Orleans, to appear before Mr. Morrison's Committee in that city, bringing with him the required telegrams.

PINESTON SAID TO HAVE BEEN A DEMOCRAT. NEW-ORLEANS, Dec. 26 .- A special dispatch to The Democrat says that the evidence brought out to-day shows that Pinkston, who was killed, was a Demoerat and had been so far back as 1872. So pronounce were his opinions that he was threatened by Republica-negroes. He was much liked by all the whites.

THE NEW STATE CONTROLLER.

PROBABILITY THAT MR. ROBINSON WILL NAME HIS OWN SUCCESSOR-THE REASONS FOR SUCH ACTION-ALLEN C. BEACH MENTIONED.

ALBANY, Dec. 26 .- The question of who will be the State Controller is still uncertain. A rumor has prevailed here for some days that the appointment would not be made by Gov. Tilden at all, but would lie over, and Gov. Robinson, on his inauguration, would name ex-Lieut.-Gov. Alien C. Beach of Jefferson County. One of the reasons stated for this action by Gov. Tile is that he has not sufficient time for a full consideration of the subject in the midst of the Presidential unce tainty. While he has no objection to Mr. Beach, he does not care to appear to be withdrawing from the cana policy of last year, when Mr. Beach was unfavorably noticed by the Cauai Investigating Committee. Another reason for his failure to make the appointment has been the fact that the month has drawn so near to a close that it will be necessary for Mr. Robinson, as Controller, to sign the usual monthly warrants.

In case the appointment is not made this week. Controller Robinou will resign on Monday morning, and Gov. Robinson will appoint a new controller directly after his inauguration. This will take place at noon without parade or ceremony, the Governor and Governor elect going to the Assembly Chamber from the Governor's room, attended simply by the staff. Gov. Robinson will take the oath, and if Gov. Tilden chooses to say anything, he will respond. Gov. Robinson's private secretary will be his son, David C. Robinson, a young man of 30 years, who has been the partner of his father in the law business in Elmira for a number of

BURNING OF A CANADIAN CONVENT.

TRIRTEEN PERSONS MISSING-EIGHT BODIES FOUND -THE MELANCHOLY SCENES AT BROOKLYN RE-

MONTREAL, Dec. 26 .- At 8:45 o'clock last night the Sister Superior of the convent made her usual visit through the whole building, and neither saw nor suspected anything out of the way
At 9:20 the whole convent was in flames.
All the occupants were in bed, and the only thing that could be done was to rush out of the building. Nuns and children had only time to save themselves without their clothes. It is believed that the fire originated be tween the floors, but no one could imagine the cause. There were forty-eight boarders'in the convent. Thirteen persons are missing, all of whom it is believed perished n the flames. Their names and ages are as follows :

in the names. Their banks and ages are as nonwell.

Angele Dauphin, 63; Elizabeth Gravel, 19; Maria
Louise Geffroy, 10; Parmele Des Maris, 9; Maria Droiet,
10; Lea Guilbault, 7; Georgiana Lavalee, 10; Lussen
Lavalee, 10; Alid Pelland, 9. All these named were
from 8t. Elizabeth. Dela Lavalee of 8t. Thomas, 10;
Rosantra Masse of 8t. Thomas, 10; Dela Masse of 8t.
Thomas, 11; Melna Joly of 8t. Felix.

At 1 o'clock this morning eight bodies had been found and taken from the ruins, all burned to a crisp. Several of the parents of the unfortunate children were present, crying and locking for their remains, endeavoring to identify them by fragments of linen or cloth on the bodies. Elizabeth Gravel, one of the victims, was seen out of the convent while it was flames, but she recutered, either to render sistance to the others or to save her property. The Sister Superior persisted in remaining in the convent fo save the children, and at last escaped with difficulty. Is is not known whether the victums perished in their beds or on the stairs while attempting to escape.

At 1 o'clock to-day the coroner opened au inquest in the Presbytery, close to the convent. The Rev. Sister Superior, Sister Onarie Ursula, and others were present. The convent, which was stationed at St. Elizabeth, 9 miles from Joliette, was founded in 1849, and was under the management of the Sisters of Providence Community. The building formed two wings, the Sisters and 50 lady boarders occupying one, while the other was occupied by about 50 orphans and infirm persons. The structure was of wood and there being no first apparatus in the vultage the flames could not be elected and nothing was saved. The property was insured for \$24,000. The convent, which was stationed at St.